

(3) A merchant mariner's document issued to a licensed radio officer will be endorsed as follows: *See License as Radio Officer*. If a licensed radio officer qualifies as a lifeboatman, the further endorsement, *Lifeboatman*, will be placed on the merchant mariner's document. Qualifications for other ratings for which a radio officer is eligible may also be endorsed on the document.

(e)(1) A merchant mariner's document issued to a staff officer will be endorsed as follows: *See Certificate of Registry*. The holder of a certificate of registry as chief purser, purser, senior assistant purser, or junior assistant purser may also serve in any capacity in the staff department not requiring a certificate of registry without obtaining an additional endorsement on his merchant mariner's document.

(2) The authorized holder of any valid merchant mariner's document, however endorsed, may serve in any capacity in the staff department of a vessel, except in those capacities requiring registered staff officers: *Provided*, That whenever such service includes the handling of food no person may be so employed unless his document bears the food handler's endorsement "(F.H.)."

(f) A merchant mariner's document endorsed as able seaman or as lifeboatman shall be a certificate of efficiency as lifeboatman.

(g) Every merchant mariner's document shall be a certificate of identification unless the holder also holds a continuous discharge book. The holder of a certificate of identification in the form issued before November 1, 1945, shall surrender that certificate before he is issued a merchant mariner's document.

(h) When a merchant mariner's document is issued, renewed, or endorsed, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, will determine whether the holder of the document is required to hold an STCW endorsement for service on a seagoing vessel, and then, if the holder is qualified, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection will issue the appropriate endorsement. The Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection will also issue an STCW endorsement at other times, if circumstances so require and if the holder of the document is qualified

to hold the endorsement. The Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection will issue an STCW endorsement for the following ratings:

(1) A rating forming part of a navigational watch on a seagoing ship of 500 GT or more if the holder of the document is qualified in accordance with STCW Regulation II/4 and Section A-II/4 of the STCW Code (incorporated by reference in §12.01-3), to perform the navigational function at the support level.

(2) A rating forming part of a watch in a manned engine-room, or designated to perform duties in a periodically unmanned engine-room, on a seagoing ship driven by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW [1,000 hp] of propulsion power or more, if the holder is qualified in accordance with STCW Regulation III/4 and Section A-III/4 of the STCW Code, to perform the marine-engineering function at the support level.

(i) At the request of the holder of the document, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection may add an endorsement to indicate that a qualified holder has received basic safety-training or instruction required under Chapter VI of STCW.

[CGFR 65-50, 30 FR 16640, Dec. 30, 1965, as amended by CGD 95-062, 62 FR 34535, June 26, 1997; USCG-1999-5610, 67 FR 66068, Oct. 30, 2002]

§ 12.02-13 Citizenship requirements.

(a) Any person making application for a continuous discharge book or a certificate of identification or a merchant mariner's document representing a certificate of identification and claiming to be a citizen of the United States shall present acceptable evidence of such citizenship at the time of making application. No original document shall be issued to any person claiming to be a citizen of the United States until such citizenship is established by acceptable evidence.

(b) Any person who has been issued a continuous discharge book or certificate of identification or merchant mariner's document showing question marks prior to the effective date of this section may at any time produce additional evidence of citizenship to a shipping commissioner or Officer in

Coast Guard, DHS

§ 12.02-17

Charge, Marine Inspection. If the additional evidence produced satisfies the shipping commissioner or the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, to whom it is presented that the same is acceptable evidence of the citizenship of the person, such official may draw lines through the question marks and note the citizenship of the person in the space provided therefor, attesting the change, or reissue the certificate or document. Whenever such changes are made the official making the change shall immediately thereafter notify the Commanding Officer, National Maritime Center.

(c) Acceptable evidence of citizenship is set forth in §10.205(c) of this subchapter.

[CGFR 65-50, 30 FR 16640, Dec. 30, 1965, as amended at 60 FR 50460, Sept. 29, 1995; USCG-1998-4442, 63 FR 52189, Sept. 30, 1998; USCG-2001-10224, 66 FR 48619, Sept. 21, 2001]

§ 12.02-14 Nationality of aliens.

(a) Any alien making application for a continuous discharge book or certificate of identification or merchant mariner's document representing a certificate of identification shall present acceptable evidence of nationality at the time of making application. No original document shall be issued to any alien until nationality is established by acceptable evidence.

(b) Any document of an official character showing the country of which the alien is a citizen or subject may be accepted as acceptable evidence of an alien's nationality. The following are examples of such a document:

(1) Declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States made by the alien after 1929.

(2) A travel document in the nature of a passport issued by the government of the country of which the alien is a citizen or subject.

(3) A certificate issued by the consular representative of the country of which the alien is a citizen or subject.

(c) Should any doubt arise as to whether or not the document presented may be considered as acceptable evidence of the alien's nationality, the matter shall be referred to the Com-

manding Officer, National Maritime Center, for decision.

[CGFR 65-50, 30 FR 16640, Dec. 30, 1965, as amended by CGD 95-072, 60 FR 50460, Sept. 29, 1995; USCG-1998-4442, 63 FR 52189, Sept. 30, 1998]

§ 12.02-15 Oath requirement.

Applicants for a merchant mariner's document for any rating shall take an oath before an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, or other official authorized to give such oath, or a commissioned officer of the Coast Guard authorized to administer oaths under 10 U.S.C. 936 or 14 U.S.C. 636, that they will faithfully and honestly perform all the duties required of them by law and carry out all lawful orders of superior officers on shipboard. Such an oath remains binding for all subsequent merchant mariner's documents issued to a person until the document is surrendered to the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection.

[CGD 91-211, 59 FR 49300, Sept. 27, 1994]

§ 12.02-17 Rules for the preparation and issuance of documents.

(a) Upon application of a person for a merchant mariner's document, any required examination will be given as soon as practicable.

(b) Upon determining that the applicant satisfactorily meets all requirements for the document and any endorsements requested, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, shall issue the appropriate document to the applicant. A merchant mariner's document is valid for a term of 5 years from the date of issuance. Any document which is renewed or reissued prior to its expiration date automatically becomes void upon issuance of the replacement document.

(c) When a seaman applies for a merchant mariner's document, he must:

(1) Sign the document; and
(2) Impress his left thumbprint on the document; or

(3) Impress his right thumbprint on the document if his left thumb is missing.

(d) A seaman's social security number is placed on his document and is his official identification number for record purposes.